

President Bush's inadequate budget is a product and consequence of his failed economic policy. A year ago, this country enjoyed a record surplus of 5.6 trillion dollars. With those resources, we could have strengthened Social Security and secured a prescription drug benefit for our seniors, while simultaneously providing for homeland security and defense. Instead, President Bush and his Republican allies pushed a tax cut through the Congress that has squandered our prosperity on those who need it least.

Now, appallingly, the President has called to make these tax cuts permanent. Apparently the rich aren't rich enough. Meanwhile, seniors who cannot afford prescription drugs, parents who cannot afford childcare, families who do not have healthcare, and poor people in need of housing are left out in the cold. The President should be ashamed. This budget neither represents sound economic policy, nor the moral values the President so fervently espouses.

This budget woefully under-funds critical programs that Americans count on in their every-day lives. Efforts to strengthen Social Security, provide a prescription drug benefit to all seniors, protect our environment, and expand healthcare coverage to the uninsured get rhetorical mention in this budget, but not meaningful funding. The President is right to devote resources to improving the security of our nation around the world. But his naive devotion to tax cuts is jeopardizing the security of domestic programs critical to the well being of our citizens.

This budget is disappointing on a grand scale. Should the President's failed economic policies continue to be implemented, we will suffer the consequences for years and years to come.